



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**State Storm Water Policy – Board holds listening sessions** – In January, the State Water Resources Control Board held three “listening sessions” to lay the groundwork for a statewide storm water policy (*Policy for the Implementation of the Storm Water Program*). For the last several years, the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) has been urging the State Board to develop a comprehensive policy document to bring consistency to stormwater regulatory efforts and to resolve outstanding policy issues.

Representatives from municipalities, industries, and other stormwater dischargers, as well as environmental groups, presented written comments and testified at the sessions. The environmental group speakers said that stormwater was still a significant problem and requested numeric limits, or at least benchmarks, for pollutants and standardized stormwater monitoring. They also emphasized the need to achieve compliance with current water quality standards.

Municipal discharger issues included: consistency in permits; the need for a definition of *maximum extent practicable* pollutant removal (MEP); and, the inappropriateness of numeric limits. A CASQA representative and others asked that the Board define “cause or contribute” in relation to exceedances of water quality standards. (This is a standard permit requirement for municipal dischargers and is independent of the requirement to attain MEP pollutant removal.) A consistent theme was the costs of implementing the programs; some municipal representatives asked for help in funding programs and removing current legal hurdles to funding.

State Board representatives said the Policy would not address funding. They also said the policy would possibly take between 18 months to 2 years to develop. When available, the written comments and meeting minutes will be posted at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html>

**State TMDL Policy – Hearing Feb 2** - The State Board Workshop will include a hearing on the *Water Quality Control Policy for Addressing California's Impaired Waters: Regulatory Structure and Options*. More information in *NewsFlash 04-51*. Draft policy and guidance posted at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html>

## Upcoming events

**BIA Training Seminars - Construction SW Compliance Training** – sponsored by BIA; March 2nd (Temecula) and March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Yorba Linda); includes post-construction controls and site tour. More information: <http://www.biasc.org/article.cfm?id=310>

**CASQA Stormwater Training** – Monterey; March 2; provided at the 2004 CWEA-P3S Conference by representatives from CASQA and the State Water Resources Control; *topics*: Industrial and Construction General Permits [http://www.cwea.org/et\\_speakers\\_conferences.shtml](http://www.cwea.org/et_speakers_conferences.shtml)

**CASQA Conference** - Inaugural *California Stormwater Quality Association* conference and exposition: *Stormwater, Treatment, Operations, Research, and Management*; October 3-5, 2005; Ontario, California; information on submitting abstracts for presentations and registration will be posted at: <http://www.casqa.org/> when it becomes available.

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>